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CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Austria, Bahamas, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine: draft resolution

Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the direct relevance of crime prevention and criminal justice to sustained development, stability, security and improved quality of life,

Bearing in mind, the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase technical cooperation activities to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries in transition, with their efforts in translating United Nations policy guidelines into practice, including training and upgrading of national capacities,

Stressing the urgent need to improve regional, interregional and international cooperation and coordination of activities aimed at combating crime in its multifaceted aspects,

Noting the continued increase in the workload of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, as well as the considerable obstacles to the full and effective implementation of its programme activities, resulting from the lack of appropriate institutional capacity,

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Convinced that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch can be effective only if it is provided with resources commensurate to its requirements and adequate to allow it to implement its mandates and to respond in a timely and efficient manner to the increasing requests of Member States for its services,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/11 of 21 May 1986, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to look critically at the existing structure and level of management of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, with a view to strengthening its capacity and status commensurate to its responsibility,

Recalling also its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in which the Assembly approved the statement of principles of programme of action annexed to the resolution, in which it was recommended to the Secretary-General that an upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat into a division should be effected as soon as possible,

Recalling further its resolution 48/103 of 20 December 1993, in which it reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to upgrade, as a matter of urgency, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat to a division,

Recalling its relevant resolutions as well as the decisions of the Economic and Social Council, which accorded a high level of priority to the activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and requested an appropriate share of the overall resources of the United Nations for the programme,

Concerned about the fact that, despite the repeated calls by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division, action has not been taken to give effect to Assembly resolutions 46/152, 47/91 of 16 December 1992 and 48/103, and Council resolutions 1992/22 of 30 July 1992, 1993/31 and 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, and 1994/16 of 25 July 1994,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 46/152, 47/91 and 48/103, 1/

1. Welcomes with appreciation Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/15 of 25 July 1994, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme";

2. Reaffirms the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and the crucial role it has to play in promoting

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international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality and in assisting Member States to achieve the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime;

3. Also reaffirms the priority attached to the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in accordance with its resolutions 46/152, 47/91 and 48/103, and the need for an appropriate share of the existing resources of the United Nations for the programme;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to give effect to General Assembly resolutions 46/152, 47/91 and 48/103 and to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22, 1993/31, 1993/34 and 1994/16 by providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority attached to the programme;

5. Recognizes that operational activities and technical assistance should continue to receive priority attention among United Nations activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate funds to build and maintain the institutional capacity of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme to respond to requests of Member States for assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, if necessary through the reallocation of resources;

7. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch into a division, in accordance with resolutions 46/152, 47/91 and 48/103 and taking fully into account paragraphs 2 and 11 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/16;

8. Welcomes the appointment of two interregional advisers in crime prevention and criminal justice, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that their activities are regularly supported by adequate human and financial resources so as to be able to respond effectively to requests by Member States for advisory services;

9. Calls upon all States and funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for operational activities for crime prevention and criminal justice, and encourages all States to make voluntary contributions for that purpose to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Trust Fund, taking into account the activities required for the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate, as appropriate, the creation of joint initiatives and joint formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects, benefiting developing countries and countries in transition, involving interested donor countries and funding agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, with a

view to establishing and maintaining efficient criminal justice systems as an essential component of all developmental efforts;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General further to strengthen cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

12. Further requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to assist the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal policy-making body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, to perform its functions and to ensure the proper coordination of all relevant activities in the field, in particular with the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

13. Welcomes the programme's participation in and contribution to the work of peace-keeping operations in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22, and requests the Secretary-General to continue developing basic courses on United Nations norms and guidelines in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which can be used, as necessary, for training peace-keeping and emergency mission personnel and, upon the request of Member States, their national counterparts, as called for in Council resolution 1993/34;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.